

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1-4 have been amended to further clarify the features of the present invention. Support for the amendment of the claims can be found in the specification, as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being unpatentable over Dworkin (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0071,540).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to the Applicants' representative on February 28, 2006. During the interview, the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. However, no agreement was reached pending the Examiner's further review and a response is filed. Comments presented during the interview are reiterated below and expressed in the changes to the claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Official Action has rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of Dworkin (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071,540). The Official Action states that Dworkin discloses all the Applicants' claim limitations with the exception of generating chats based at a predetermined time. However, the Official Action takes official notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to generate chat space at a predetermined time. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an information processing server, including:

... a generation unit configured to generate a group chat space corresponding to the reservation at a predetermined time prior to a distribution start time designated by the reservation;

a providing unit configured to provide a group chat space to the first terminal and the second terminal designated to be distributed by the first terminal; and

a supply unit configured to supply the whole or a part of the contents of group chatting performed in the group chat space to the first terminal after completion of the delivery of the first service to the second terminal. (emphasis added)

Dworkin describes an application service provider environment for providing a distributed conferencing configuration. As shown in Fig. 1 of this reference, the configuration (99) includes a plurality of users (100A-100F) employing the Internet (104). Conferencing resources (112) include both hardware and software components, which are hosted and managed by a conferencing application service provider (110).¹

In operation, the users (100) may employ the services of the conferencing configuration to facilitate distribution of data and video conferencing without the expense and overhead associated with owning and maintaining their own conference resources. For example, an individual user (100A) would register with the application service provider (ASP) and be provided with an application program interface (API) to receive the necessary software for support facilitating communication with the provider. Likewise, the user may use third-party instant messaging software to communicate with other users. In addition, the ASP may employ a messaging utility (122), such that upon registration, a user downloads an instant messaging plug-in for use with a user interface (100B). In this way, the user can initiate a conference by inviting other instant messaging participants registered with the ASP.²

¹ Dworkin at paragraph 14.

² Dworkin at paragraphs 16-17.

Conversely, in an exemplary embodiment of Applicants' invention, a live distribution service for streaming contents to users is provided in accordance with a reservation made in advance. In operation, a user, such as a personal computer (3), provides contents for distribution according to a reservation to a streaming server (5). Personal computers (4-1 - 4-3) receive the streaming contents from the streaming server according to the reservation made by the personal computer (3).³ During the delivery of the streaming content, a group chat space is created corresponding to the reservation of the streaming distribution. In this way, the group chat space is automatically generated with the delivery of the streaming content.

With regard to the group chat space, upon conclusion of the delivery of the streaming content, such as during a video conference, a supply unit provides the contents of the group chatting to the first terminal (terminal making the initial reservation) after completion of the delivery of the first service. In other words, after the video conference is completed, the discussion between participants is delivered to the entity which scheduled the conference. To this end, the claims include a supply unit configured to supply the whole, or part, of the contents of group chatting performed in the group chat space to the first terminal after completion of the delivery of the first service to the second terminal. One application of such a transcript supply would be a mechanism to inform users who were unable to participate in the presentation of the discussion between participants during the streaming presentation.

As Dworkin describes reporting third party instant messaging utilities, there would be no way by which the server could have access to the group contents for distribution. Therefore, Dworkin does not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed supply unit, as recited in the amended claims.

³ Application at page 8.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1-4, is patently distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

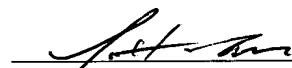
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